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BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM.

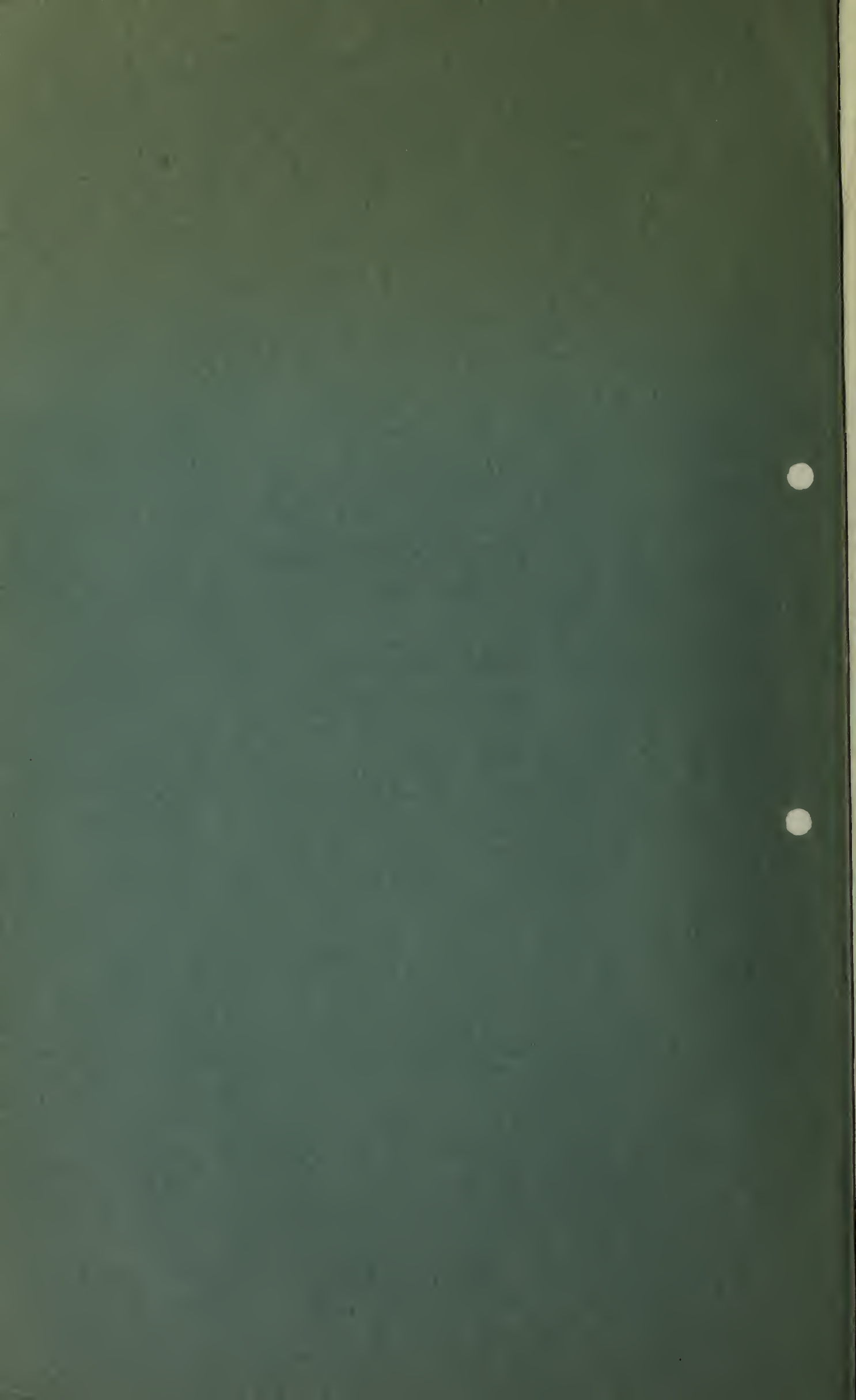
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR..... 1959.





BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUMMEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR:-..... Councillor T.W. Fowler J.P
 THE DEPUTY MAYOR:-..... Councillor Miss A.Williams
 J.P.

ALDERMEN:-

Alderman J.L. Carter.

Alderman B.C. Hunt.

Alderman D. Gent.

COUNCILLORS:-

Councillor R. Brooks.

Councillor H.H. Macnally

Councillor G. Gibbs.

Councillor W.L. Penny

Councillor G.R.J. Haskett.

Councillor E.G. Riggs.

Councillor Mrs. G.F. King.

Councillor J. Trickett.

Councillor T.L. Hughes.

Councillor F. Wyatt.

STATE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B, Pharm., D.P.H.

holding appointments of:-

| | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| Assistant County Medical Officer | } | 5/11 of time. |
| School Medical Officer. | | |
| Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum. | | |
| Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District. | | |
| Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District. | | |
| Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District. | | |

contributing roughly:-

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Borough of Blandford Forum..... | $\frac{1}{4}$ | day per week. |
| Blandford Rural District..... | $\frac{1}{2}$ | day per week |
| Wimborne Minster Urban District..... | $\frac{1}{3}$ | day per week. |
| Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District..... | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | days per week. |

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

H.L. Birkett.

M.R.S.H.

M.P.H.I.A.

The Plocks,

Blandford.

Dorset.

JULY, 1961

MR. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Report for the year, 1959,
and regret its belated appearance.

G.B. Hopkins.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Area of the Borough..... | 253 acres. |
| Population as estimated by Registrar General on 30.6.59..... | 3250. |
| Total number of inhabited houses at 31/12/59..... | 1164 |
| Rateable value at 1st April, 1959..... | £49,296 |
| Product of penny rate at 1st April, 1959..... | £190 |

As supplied by the Registrar General

| <u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Blandford.</u> | <u>Comparative Statistics.</u> | |
|---|---------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | <u>England & Wales.</u> | <u>Administrative County.</u> |
| Total registered..... | 70 | 43 | 27 | | | |
| Legitimate..... | 63 | 39 | 24 | | | |
| Illegitimate..... | 7 | 4 | 3 | | | |
| Standardised Rate..... | | | | 22 | 16.5 | 14.6 |
| Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births..... | | | | | | 10% |

STILLBIRTHS

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|----|------|-------|
| Total registered..... | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Legitimate..... | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths..... | | | | 41 | 20.7 | 18.46 |
| Total live and stillbirths..... | | | | 73 | | |

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths under one year.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Total registered..... | 2 | 2 | - |
| Legitimate..... | 2 | 2 | - |

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

| | | | |
|---|------|------|------|
| Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births... | 31.8 | 22.0 | 17.4 |
|---|------|------|------|

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE.

| | |
|---|----|
| Deaths under four weeks per 1000 total live births. | 28 |
| Early neo-natal mortality rate. | |
| Deaths under one week per 1000 total live births... | 28 |

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

| | |
|---|----|
| (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined, per 1000 total live and stillbirths.)..... | 69 |
|---|----|

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| <u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u> | NIL |
|---------------------------------|-----|

DEATHS - All Ages.

| | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| | 57 | 27 | 30 |
| Standardised Rate..... | 13.5 | 11.6. | 12.4. |

SECTION A
NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The estimated mid-year population remained the same at 3,250. The death rate rose to 13.5, appreciably higher than the figure to be expected in a rural district, but is regarded as a chance rise based upon a small population.

The birth rate was even higher than last year and well over the national and county figure.

SECTION B

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory Service was created to enable Medical Officers of Health throughout the country to have free access to a laboratory in connection with epidemiological investigations and routine bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream and other foods. The local laboratory is situated at Dorchester and provides an excellent scientific service.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service of the district is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castleman House.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Dorset County Council provide an ante-natal clinic and an Infant Welfare Centre once a fortnight in Blandford.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The County Home Help Scheme provides a service in Blandford and surrounding district.

SECTION C
Prevalance of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Puerperal Pyrexia..... | 2 |
| Scarlet fever..... | 13 |
| Pneumonia..... | 3 |
| Whooping cough..... | 3 |
| Measles..... | 4 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum.... | 1 |
| Dysentery..... | 1 |

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

| <u>Pulmonary</u> | | <u>Non-Pulmonary</u> |
|------------------|---|----------------------|
| Males..... | 9 | Males..... 3 |
| Females..... | 7 | Females..... 1 |

The very low figures for non-pulmonary tuberculosis are witness to the vast improved methods of handling milk in recent years, notably by pasteurisation. The advent of tuberculin tested dairy herds should largely eliminate this form of tuberculosis. In this respect we have come a very long way from the days when 20,000 persons per year in this island contracted non-pulmonary tuberculosis, almost entirely from infected milk.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
Notification in Age Groups. - 1959

| <u>DISEASE.</u> | <u>Under 1.</u> | <u>1.</u> | <u>2.</u> | <u>3.</u> | <u>4.</u> | <u>5-9.</u> | <u>10-14.</u> | <u>15-24.</u> | <u>25 and over.</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Puerperal Pyrexia. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Scarlet fever. | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | 5 | 4 | - | - |
| Pneumonia. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Whooping cough. | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Measles. | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum. | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dysentery. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |

SECTION D.
STATISTICAL TABLES FOR THE YEAR 1959.
Causes of Death

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory..... | - | - |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other..... | - | - |
| 3. Syphilitic disease..... | - | - |
| 4. Diphtheria..... | - | - |
| 5. Whooping cough..... | - | - |
| 6. Meningococcal Infection..... | - | - |
| 7. Acute poliomyelitis..... | - | - |
| 8. Measles..... | - | - |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases..... | 1 | - |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm stomach..... | 1 | 1 |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus..... | 3 | 1 |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast..... | - | - |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus..... | - | - |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms..... | 2 | 5 |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia..... | 1 | - |
| 16. Diabetes..... | - | 1 |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system..... | 3 | 2 |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina..... | 4 | 6 |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease..... | - | - |
| 20. Other heart disease..... | 4 | 11 |
| 21. Other circulatory disease..... | 1 | 1 |
| 22. Influenza..... | - | - |
| 23. Pneumonia..... | 2 | 1 |
| 24. Bronchitis..... | 2 | 1 |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system..... | - | - |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum..... | - | - |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea..... | - | - |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis..... | 1 | - |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate..... | - | - |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion..... | - | - |
| 31. Congenital malformations..... | - | - |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases..... | 2 | - |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents..... | - | - |
| 34. All other accidents..... | - | - |
| 35. Suicide..... | - | - |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war..... | - | - |
| <u>TOTALS..</u> | <u>27</u> | <u>30</u> |

Vaccination and Immunisation

Statistics.

| BCG. | POLIOMYELITIS. | | DIPHTHERIA. | | WHOOPING COUGH. | | TETANUS. | | SMALLPOX. | |
|------|----------------|-------|-------------|-----|-----------------|----|----------|----|-----------|------|
| | P. | B. | P. | B. | P. | B. | P. | B. | P. | B. |
| 25. | 1397. | 2023. | 209 | 234 | 185 | 84 | 173 | 89 | 149 | 161. |

P = Primary course of two or three injections.

B = Booster dose of one single injection.

ADMINISTRATION.

In August a joint meeting of representatives of the five authorities for whom I act was held.

A recommendation was made for a whole time assistant for County Council duties instead of the half time assistant already appointed in 1958, with a view to enabling me to devote to the four district councils the six elevenths of my time allocated to them. Attention was also directed to the problem of the division of this six elevenths between the various district councils, who contribute on the basis of rateable values as outlined on page 2 of this report. It was agreed that this would be left to my discretion as before.

Early in the year Mr. H.L. Birkett took up the full time appointment of Public Health Inspector, taking over meat inspection at the abattoir as part of his duties. This marked a significant advance in staffing which will reflect itself in a better service to the Council and the public and the value of which will become increasingly apparent.

It was estimated that the new Public Health Inspector would spend roughly half his time on meat inspection and no comment on this valuable service, previously performed on a part time basis by the local veterinary surgeons, is complete without mentioning the financial implications.

The abattoir is a fairly sizeable one, especially for a small country town, so that the very great majority of carcasses go outside the borough for ultimate consumption. The subsidy received by the Council is inadequate and could not possibly cover the cost of an efficient 100% inspection service, so that the paradoxical situation exists that an ancient Borough of 3,250 population is subsidising a valuable health service for other areas, including London.

This system calls for remedy, it is not only inequitable, but must tend to militate against a full meat inspection service in the country. It is not known why the subsidy per carcase cannot be raised to cover the cost of inspection.

100 per cent inspection was maintained during holiday periods with aid from the Rural District Council Staff.

FILTHY AND/OR VERMINOUS PERSONS, PREMISES AND ARTICLES.

Powers exist to deal with such circumstances in Sections 83, 84, 85 and 86 and Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936.

One such person against whom previous action had been taken continued to require close supervision, and informal notices were served with some effect.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases were notified.

The majority of cases are not notified for a variety of reasons; people are naturally reluctant to give any publicity whatever to distressing symptoms, and gastro-intestinal upsets are commonly regarded and accepted without question as one of the ills which flesh is heir to. Those due to food poisoning are nevertheless preventable in theory, and a good deal of health education directed to kitchen hygiene and the methods by which foods can be inadvertently rendered heavily infected within institutions, hotels, restaurants, food processing factories and the home, would reduce the incidence of this condition. It is well to remember that the condition occasionally becomes serious and that it can take life. One death every fortnight from this cause was recorded for England and Wales in 1959.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES - Nil

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

A good start was made on a comprehensive survey of food establishments and a list of inspections is given later.

MILK SUPPLIES

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, came into operation on the 8th March, 1959, amending previous legislation.

THE MILK (Special Designations) (Specified Area) Order, 1959 .

In April, 1959, the district became a designated area in which the following types only of milk could be sold:-

Tuberculin Tested.
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised (Red Caps)
Pasteurised.
Sterilised.

THE ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATED, etc.) REGULATIONS, 1959

No manufacturing for sale was done in the district.

Six retail samples of ice cream were taken during the year and these were graded as follows:-

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Grade 1.</u> | <u>Grade 2.</u> | <u>Grade 3.</u> | <u>Grade 4.</u> |
| 5 | 1 | Nil | Nil |

MEAT INSPECTION

This is on a 100% basis, the public health inspector visiting the abattoir when necessary during hours of slaughtering. The public health inspector possesses the necessary additional qualifications of the Royal Society of Health for the examination of meat.

MEAT INSPECTION STATISTICS - 1959

The following are particulars of the number of animals slaughtered and examined at the privately owned slaughterhouse at Shorts Lane, Blandford Forum, during the year 1959.

| <u>Steers.</u> | <u>Heifers.</u> | <u>Cows & Bulls.</u> | <u>Calves.</u> | <u>Sheep.</u> | <u>Pigs.</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 529 | 639 | 514 | 13 | 2,176 | 8,856 |

Summary of the unsound meat condemned during the year ending 31st December, 1959.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| For diseases other than tuberculosis - Offal..... | 13, 111 lbs |
| For diseases other than tuberculosis - part carcase meat..... | 1, 713 lbs. |
| For diseases other than tuberculosis- whole carcase meat..... | 410 lbs |
| For tuberculosis..... Offal..... | 1, 684 lbs |
| For tuberculosis.....- part carcase meat..... | 5, 017 lbs |
| For tuberculosis.....- whole carcase meat..... | 390 lbs |

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948, empowers the Council, where the Medical Officer of Health certifies that removal is necessary, to take defined steps to secure the removal of persons in need of care and attention to suitable premises. This section required at least a week and in practice longer, to put into operation, and it soon became obvious that the procedure was too protracted to deal with emergencies. The National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, was designed to facilitate procedure under these circumstances, and where he is authorised by a Council, the Medical Officer of Health may himself apply to a magistrate for an Order enabling quick removal in circumstances of dire emergency.

Action under the above powers is regarded by your Medical Officer of Health as a very last resort. Pleasanter methods of dealing with such cases are nearly always possible, and much can be done, by providing domestic help, to keep old persons in their homes. Even a year or two of independent existence won in this way seems much preferable to an alternative which the present generation of old people still regard as having an aura of the workhouse.

There remain some unsatisfactory properties which by reason of their worn-out condition and lack of amenity would render it difficult to maintain elderly tenants in independent occupation, and elderly people tend to gravitate to such dwellings for financial reasons.

The Barnes Trust Elderly Peoples Homes continued to fulfill a very valuable function and no difficulty would be experienced in finding suitable tenants for more such dwellings.

The medico-social impact of old age is growing. In 1901, one in twenty-one of the population was over 65.

In 1954, one in nine of the population was over 65.

In 1975 it is estimated that one in seven of the population will be over 65.

WATER SUPPLY

The Borough Council provided an ample and constant service of pure water to the Borough and parts of the surrounding rural district, comprising a population of some 6,000. The water was pumped from two shallow wells and one borehole situated on the outskirts of the town and even during the severe drought of 1959 there was no acute shortage of water. All the supplies were chlorinated at source.

Two raw samples and four treated samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Dorchester, and were reported as satisfactory.

Three samples were submitted to the Public Analyst and his reports follow:-

| | <u>SAMPLE.</u> <u>1</u> | <u>SAMPLE</u> <u>2</u> | <u>SAMPLE</u> <u>3</u> |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Physical Examination. | | | |
| Temperature at source..... | 18.0 deg.C. | 19.0 deg.C. | 19.0d C. |
| Colour..... | Colourless. | Colourless. | Colourless. |
| Appearance..... | Clear | Clear | Clear. |
| Taste..... | None | None | None. |
| Odour..... | None | None | None. |
| (b) General Chemical Examination, as parts per million. | | | |
| Reaction, pH..... | 7.30 | 7.3 | 7.25 |
| Free carbon Dioxide, as CO | 14.0 | 15.0 | 13.0 |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen, as N. ₂ | 0.059 | 0.021 | 0.005 |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen, as N..... | 0.023 | 0.045 | 0.059 |
| Nitrous Nitrogen, as N..... | nil | 0.004 | nil |
| Nitric Nitrogen, as N..... | 5.69 | 8.65 | 7.42 |
| Hardness (test used EDTA) | | | |
| Temporary, as CaCO ₃ | 250 | 256.6. | 245 |
| Permanent..... | 4 | 14.4 | 10 |
| Permanganate figure (4 hrs at 80 Deg.F) | | | |
| as O..... | 0.35 | 0.43 | 0.49 |
| Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃ | 250.0 | 250.0 | 240. |
| Total solids..... | 312.0 | 372.0 | 372. |
| (c) Mineral Analysis. | | | |
| Calcium, as Ca..... | 98.0 | 101.0 | 99.5 |
| Magnesium, as Mg..... | 1. 0. | 3.4 | 2.4 |
| Sodium, as Na..... | 38.0 | 22.3 | 35.0 |
| Carbonate, as CO ₃ | 150.0 | 147.0 | 144.0 |
| Chloride, as Cl..... | 21.0 | 18.0 | 25.0 |
| Sulphate, as SO ₄ | 13.2 | 13.2 | 18.1 |
| Nitrate, as NO ₃ | 25.2 | 38.3 | 32.8 |
| Iron..... | nil | Trace. | nil |
| Fluoride, As F..... | 0.055 | 0.015 | 0.015 |

SWIMMING BATH

The open air swimming bath situated adjacent to the River Stour and the large car park, is approximately 56,000 gallons in capacity. It is filled from the mains supply. Chlorination was achieved by a simple drip feed plant which was nearing the end of its useful life, while hairs were screened out by percolation of the water through a few inches of coke. No effective filtration was possible, and the water was renewed at intervals of a few weeks. Sterilisation under these circumstances is by chloramines, and the method gives rise to doubts as to its efficacy by reason of the high content of suspended organic and inorganic matter which develops within a few days of filling.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES
SWIMMING BATH.

Ten samples were taken for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows:-

| <u>Sample No.</u> | <u>Probable No. of ooliform bacilli.</u> | <u>Probable No. of bact. coli. - type 1</u> |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 1. | 2 per 100 ml. | Nil per 100 ml. |
| 2. | nil per 100 ml | |
| 3. | nil per 100 ml. | |
| 4. | 5 per 100 ml. | Nil per 100 ml |
| 5. | nil per 100 ml | |
| 6. | nil per 100 ml | |
| 7. | nil per 100 ml | |
| 8. | nil per 100 ml | |
| 9. | nil per 100 ml | |
| 10. | nil per 100 ml | |

The total attendances at the baths during the summer season were:-

Child spectators..... 462
Adult spectators..... 871
Child swimmers..... 9710
Adult swimmers..... 1027

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A complete water carriage system serves the whole of the Borough and 150 houses beyond the boundary.

A report on the Sewage Disposal Works and on the infiltration of ground water into the sewerage system was in course of preparation by the consulting engineers.

As far as is known there are no houses in the Borough relying upon the conservancy system of sewage disposal.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

There are six houses in the district without separate closet accommodation, i.e. one water closet serving the needs of two houses.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Part of this Act became enforceable on the 31st December, 1956, giving Local Authorities new powers and duties for the prevention of air pollution and including provisions relating to the installation of new furnaces, chimney heights, the making of building bye-laws, smoke control areas and other matters.

The remainder of the Act came into force in June, 1958, enabling the prohibition of dark smoke from chimneys, the abatement of smoke nuisances and other measures.

Section 3 of the main Act requires that any person proposing to instal a furnace shall give notice of intention to do so to the Local Authority and failure to give notice is an offence.

Section 10 provides that when plans in connection with the installation of new furnaces are submitted, the Local Authority has to be satisfied that the heights of chimneys are such that no smoke nuisances will be likely to arise.

Smoke is poisonous and it would be a pity if any tendency emerged to reverse the responsibility for polluting the atmosphere as between town and country, by application of the Clean Air Act in the former and not in the latter.

HOUSING

The total number of inhabited dwellings in the area is 1,164. The Council own 407 houses, 151 of which are outside the boundary owing to the very limited amount of building land within the Borough.

HOUSING ACT, 1957.

Following a preliminary survey, sixty houses were reported as being unfit for human habitation, and the Council decided to take appropriate action under the Act in respect of twenty-seven of these when suitable housing accommodation became available.

Four houses were demolished during the twelve months under Section 17 (1).

OVERCROWDING.

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded, 31/12/59..... 3
 Number of families therein..... 5
 Number of persons involved.....21
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported..... Nil
- (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved and the number of persons concerned..... Nil
- (d) Number of renewed cases of overcrowding..... 1

RENTS ACT, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received from tenants of houses during 1959.

One application for cancellation of a certificate granted in 1958 was allowed by the Council.

FACTORIES ACT, 1957Part One - Health (General Provisions)

The first seven sections of this Act contain provisions concerning cleanliness, freedom from effluvia and nuisances, overcrowding, temperature, fumes, circulation of fresh air and ventilation, natural and artificial lighting, drainage of floors, and provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

District Councils have powers in connection with sanitary conveniences whether or not mechanical power is used, and powers with respect to all the other provisions where no mechanical power is used.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.

| <u>Premises.</u> | <u>Number on Register.</u> | <u>Number of Inspections.</u> | <u>Written Notices.</u> | <u>Occupiers prosecuted.</u> |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| (1) Factories in which Sec. 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. | 6 | 3 | Nil | Nil |
| (22) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. | 46 | 19 | Nil | Nil |
| (111) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority - Excluding outworkers' premises. | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| TOTAL. | 52 | 22 | Nil | Nil |

Numbers of Cases in which defects were found:-

| <u>Particulars.</u> | <u>Found.</u> | <u>Remedied.</u> | <u>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--|
| <u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u> | | | |
| (a) Insufficient..... | 1 | 1 | Nil |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective..... | 1 | 1 | 1 |

PART VIII of the Act.OUTWORKERS.SECTION 110No. of outworkers
on list.Nature of Work

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Wearing Apparel - Making etc. | |
| Cleaning and Washing..... | 22 |
| Curtains and furniture hangings. | 1 |
| TOTAL.... | 23 |

No cases of default in sending lists to the Council or prosecutions for failure to supply lists occurred.

There were no instances of work in unwholesome premises.

REFUSE COLLECTION

This is on a weekly collection basis to all parts of the Borough.

There were a small number only of complaints from members of the public.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

A number of complaints were received during the year regarding the refuse tip at Nippards Clump on the outskirts of the town. This tip had almost outlived its usefulness, having become quite an appreciable sized mound which was burning on the tipping face. The lighter type of debris was almost uncontrollable during gales and high winds. Much thought was given by Council and staff to the possibility of securing a better site where improved methods could be practiced, but the usual difficulties were experienced, local opinion invariably being roared at any proposal. This is undoubtedly due to the picture which nearly everyone has in his mind's eye of a tip, an eyesore, perhaps a little smelly or pervaded by smoke. This legacy of the past, and unfortunately the present, will continue until the public understanding of refuse disposal becomes conditioned by the practice of controlled tipping, which is largely unobjectionable to the aesthetic senses and can be used very effectively for land reclamation.

The essence of controlled tipping is successive layers of refuse well covered with earth at frequent short intervals. Very little refuse is exposed. Simple earth moving machinery is a necessary capital outlay, while labour costs at the tip site are a factor to be considered. Informed public opinion would tolerate controlled tipping very much better than the present method.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Summary of Inspections and Revisits made in the course of routine works during the year ended 31st December, 1959.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| | Houses..... | 186 |
| | Other premises..... | 42 |
| <u>HOUSING ACTS</u> | | 126 |
| | Overcrowding..... | 1 |
| | Infectious Diseases.. | 0 |
| | Disinfestation..... | 11 |
| | Abattoir(meat inspection) | 406 |
| | Markets..... | 22 |
| | Factories..... | 22 |

FOOD PREMISES.

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----|
| | Cafes..... | 46 |
| | Ice Cream..... | 21 |
| | Grocers..... | 31 |
| | Butchers..... | 16 |
| | Bakers and Confectioners. | 6 |
| | Fried Fish..... | 3 |
| | General..... | 26 |
| | Refuse Collection and Dis. | 46 |
| | Other Miscellaneous visits. | 44 |

ACTION TAKEN UNDER ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | <u>Public Health Acts.</u> | |
| | No. of informal notices served..... | 18 |
| | No. of informal notices complied with... | 13 |
| | No. of statutory notices served..... | Nil |
| | No. of statutory notices complied with.. | Nil |
| (b) | <u>Housing Acts.</u> | |
| | No. of informal notices served..... | 1 |
| | No. of informal notices complied with... | 1 |
| | No. of statutory notices served..... | Nil |
| | No. of statutory notices complied with.. | Nil |
| (c) | <u>Food and Drugs Acts and Regulations.</u> | |
| | No. of informal notices served..... | 12 |
| | No. of informal notices complied with... | 9 |
| (d) | <u>Factories Acts and Regulations.</u> | |
| | No. of informal notices served..... | 2 |
| | No. of informal notices complied with... | 2 |

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

There has been no major rat infestation in the Borough during the year, 1959.

Infestations occur year after year in much the same areas and constant watch has been kept on these areas before the infestations have had time to become heavy or major.

This is the first year in which there has been no necessity to carry out treatment for rat infestation at the Borough Refuse Tip.

Sewer test was carried out in April showing very minor rat infestation in the sewers in the lower part of the town.

Sewer treatments were carried out in May and November in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations.

| | <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>Council Premises.</u> | <u>Private Premises.</u> | <u>Business Premises.</u> | <u>Agric. Premises.</u> |
|--|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Number of visits made. | 660 | 54 | 430 | 173 | 3 |
| Number of Premises surveyed on Notification..... | 17 | - | 16 | 1 | - |
| Number of Premises surveyed under the Act..... | 265 | 13 | 185 | 66 | 1 |
| Number of Premises found to be infested with rats.. | 58 | 1 | 48 | 8 | 1 |
| Number of Premises treated for rat infestation..... | 53 | 1 | 48 | 4 | - |
| Number of Premises infested with mice..... | 16 | - | 12 | 4 | - |
| Number of premises treated for mouse infestation. | 16 | - | 12 | 4 | - |

Forty five wasps nests were destroyed in the Borough in 1959.
